

MR. WILLIS AT HILO.

Preparations for Reception by American Residents.

DOUBLE WEDDING AT WAIKAE.

Scotch Lassies Who Came Across Ocean and Continent—Henry Deacon's Friends Welcome Him Home. Funeral of Mrs. Hitchcock—Notes.

HILO (Hawaii), Nov. 4.—The gayest party of the past week was a genuine old-fashioned surprise party at Pepeekeo on Friday evening, tendered to Henry Deacon, manager of Pepeekeo plantation, complimentary to his recent return from the Coast. The arrangements were in the hands of his bachelor friends, who, although they sent out invitations to all of Mr. Deacon's friends, both far and near, were most successful in keeping a profound secret to the honored host. Over one hundred people joined in the festive dance to do honor to the occasion. Early in the evening a supper was served, and dancing continued until nearly 3 o'clock in the morning, when all sat down to a sumptuous luau. It was daylight when giddy Hiloites and residents of every plantation for miles around started for their homes.

On Saturday evening there was a "meeting of the clans," as one of the Scotch friends reported the affair. The occasion was a double wedding and the joyful celebration of the happy event. Some forty or more friends of the young folks gathered at the residence of George Chalmers at Waikae, and there witnessed the marriage of Miss Nellie Gray and George Low, of Honolulu, and Miss Mary Alexander and James Webster, of Onouea. The young ladies arrived from Scotland in company with Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers on the bark Annie Johnson about ten days ago. Rev. Mr. Hill, of the First Foreign Church, officiated. After the ceremony, all were invited to partake of the wedding feast, which was followed by a merry dance.

On account of the death of Mrs. D. H. Hitchcock on last Tuesday, the church social was postponed for one week, and will be held in the parlors of the church Tuesday evening, November 5th.

The U. S. S. Bennington came into port Friday afternoon about 3 o'clock. She reports having encountered rough weather on her passage up, and in consequence her guests, U. S. Minister Willis, wife and son, and Dr. Cooper suffered the indisposition of seasickness. Minister Willis and family have not yet been ashore owing to unpleasant weather. Dr. Cooper is the guest of Dr. Williams. A number of the officers and Dr. Cooper were entertained at dinner Friday evening at a downtown restaurant by some of the Hilo young men.

It is interesting to note the flourishing condition of Hilo's kindergartens. The public kindergarten, under the able management and instruction of Miss Guild and her assistant, has between thirty and thirty-five children in charge. Miss Guild's private class, which meets at her room in the old Coney House in the afternoon, numbers about a dozen. Mrs. Walsh has charge of the Chinese kindergarten and is doing excellent work. At present she is taking advantage of an opportunity to improve her own well advanced methods by study with Miss Guild who has had charge of kindergarten work in California.

Miss Celia Plunkett, who was reported in the Oakland and San Francisco papers as having "charge of the children of the American colony in Hilo," is engaged as private teacher at the home of C. C. Kennedy at Waikae.

Fred Smith of Honolulu is a guest of Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Baldwin.

Mr. Low of Kukuhae came over to attend the double wedding at Waikae.

Miss Nellie Porter returns to Honolulu on this Kinau to resume her school duties at Punahoa.

The last sad rites were paid to the lamented dead, Mrs. D. H. Hitchcock, on Tuesday afternoon. Rev. C. W. Hill, assisted by a choir from his church, conducted the services at the house. The funeral cortege was one of the largest Hilo has known. The concluding services at the grave were very short, thus lessening the terrible pang which the burial of a loved one must give.

Hiloites congratulate the Gazette Company upon the neat appearance of its papers.

The Kona and Kau telephone

line will be completed on the Kau side to the volcano by Wednesday next, November 6th, so that connection will be complete from Hilo to Naalehu. The Kona side will not be ready much before Christmas.

In consequence of union meetings in the Haili church last evening there were no services in the Foreign or Portuguese churches. The following interesting program was well carried out:

Gospel Hymn; anthem by the Haili church choir; concert recitation of scripture; anthem by the Foreign church choir; prayer; singing by the Hilo Union School; concert recitation, "Strikes"; singing by Hilo Boarding School; recitation, "What Would You Think?"; solo by Mrs. Austin; recitation, "How Much Owest Thou?"; anthem by Foreign church choir; remarks by Mr. Baptiste; singing by Haili church choir; recitation by Florence Hill; remarks by Mr. Hill; closing hymn, No. 741 stanza; Benediction.

A meeting of the American residents of the Hilo and Olas districts was held in the Hilo court house Saturday evening, November 2d, to discuss ways and means and arrange for a suitable reception and banquet to be tendered American Minister Willis and the officers of the U. S. gunboat Bennington, now in port. The meeting was called to order by A. B. Lobenstein, who in a few well-chosen remarks complimented the assembly on the unanimity and enthusiasm with which every American had hailed the opportunity to show honor to his country's representative, and that whatever at other times and in other places might be the differences of opinion, political and otherwise, here at least all met on common ground as Americans. Hilo has seen no gathering for many months where the sentiment was so united throughout, and only in the detail whether the banquet should be distinctly American in character or whether so-called "representative citizens" should also be included in the general invitation, was the discussion other than viva voce. It is anticipated that the reception and banquet will be one of the most elaborate and enthusiastic affairs ever held in Hilo.

BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Meeting of Woman's Branch Yesterday—Interesting Papers.

A meeting of the Woman's Board of Foreign Missions was held in the parlors of Central Union Church Tuesday afternoon. A large number of ladies was present, among whom was Mrs. McCully-Higgins who arrived yesterday on the O. & O. S. S. Coptic.

Mrs. McCully-Higgins spoke of her very pleasant trip to Japan. Two things struck her very forcibly. One was the great beauty of the temples which seemed so full of heathenism; and the second was the love and unity made manifest by the missionaries of the various denominations represented.

Miss Mary Green reported, that she had visited Maternity Home and found everything in a very flourishing condition. Miss Green expressed herself as being very much pleased with Mrs. Lemon, the matron, and asked the ladies to visit the home. Miss Green also spoke of the great need of a kindergarten at Palama.

A most interesting paper on "Reminiscences of Early Missionary Ladies" was read by Mrs. Robert Andrews. The same paper will be read before the next meeting of the Mission Children's Society. In the paper were inserted bits of the journals of early lady missionaries on the islands.

A resolution expressing the love and sympathy of the board to the family of the late Mrs. A. V. Soares, was adopted.

At the next meeting of the board Mrs. A. F. Cooke will read a paper in memoriam of Mrs. Soares.

Mrs. A. F. Cooke made a report on the "Lima Kokua" and stated that good work was being done in that branch of the board.

The kindergartens were all reported to be in very good condition.

The afternoon's collection amounted to \$42.

Looking Into Blight.

James Stanes, a coffee planter of Nilgerry Hills, Southern India, is in the city looking into the coffee industry here and investigating the blight and its remedy. Mr. Stanes arrived by the Coptic, and will visit plantations on Hawaii before leaving here.

He states that the crop in India has been very materially reduced through the ravages of the blight, and that, up to the time of his departure from his home, nothing had been introduced that would eradicate it.

The coffee in India, Mr. Stanes states, is picked entirely by coolie labor at an average cost to the planter of \$1.75 per man a month.

A HONOLULU SONG BIRD.

The Life of Annis Montague, the Soprano.

KNOWN THE WORLD OVER.

The Sister of C. M. and A. F. Cooke—To Return to Honolulu—A Pupil of the Great Masters—Her Record in the States—A Favorite in Australia.

[From Sydney Morning Herald.]

Sydney opera-goers bade farewell to a well-known and popular prima donna at the Lyceum on Thursday afternoon, for no singer who has visited Australia has essayed a greater number of grand opera roles with the same complete and long continued success. Miss Annis Montague, whose career was broken by the untimely death of her husband, Mr. Charles Turner, sails towards the end of next month for Honolulu, where her mother, Mrs. Cooke, still flourishes at the age of 83, and where she has other relatives. Miss Montague comes, indeed, of a musical family. Her grandmother, Mrs. Montague, who died at Baltimore at the great age of 94, was a fine singer, and Mrs. Cooke, who was known throughout the Hawaiian Islands as "The Singing Missionary," retained her beautiful voice so many years that at the age of 68 she sang a roudale, closing in a trill with so much brilliancy that Mr. Charles Turner mistook her voice for that of his wife. Born in an atmosphere of music, it is not surprising that early in her teens Miss Montague left Honolulu to study singing in Paris. Her first master there was Wartell, the great tenor who taught both Christine Nilsson and Trebell-Bettini, and her second teacher was Bellari, a famous Spanish tenor from Madrid. Her debut was at a concert given by the latter at the Rossini Theatre, Paris, as the outcome of her success at which Victor Masse, whose opera, "Paul and Virginia," she was destined to introduce in Australia—gave her free admission to all the Sunday concerts at the Conservatoire. This was in 1874, when Miss Montague was awarded the prize at a great public competition for the most perfect execution and trill, the certificate accompanying which was signed by Charles Gounod, Ambrose Thomas, Carvalho, Halanier, Begier and Vianesi—the last named being the since famous conductor of Covent Garden Opera. After this Miss Montague made her professional debut at Booth's Theatre, New York, appearing in the high soprano role of the Queen in "Les Huguenots," with Marie Roze as Valentine. Miss Montague sang in Italian opera for two years (1875-6), one of her best parts being that of Filina in "Mignon," and she made a great success as Lucia, with Joseph Maas, the young English tenor who would have rivalled Sims Reeves had he lived, as Edgardo. In 1878 Miss Montague entered upon a long engagement with the Hesse-Kellogg American Opera Company, the foremost operatic combination in the States. It was then that the prima donna began to sing dramatic roles as well as the florid light soprano characters in which she had first made her name. In 1880 the soprano returned to her mother's house at Honolulu for her marriage with Mr. Charles Turner, who followed her there from America. The pair then paid their first visit to Australia, and founded the Montague-Turner Opera Company, which afterwards endured so many years. Their debut was at the Sydney Gaiety Theatre, with a cast which included Mr. Edward Farley as baritone, Miss Lambert as contralto, and Mr. Gordon as bass. M. Leon Caron conducted this season, which lasted two months, and during which, to crowded houses, "Maritana" and "Bohemian Girl" each ran three weeks. The tenor and the soprano sang together every night for four years with hardly a break, and early in 1885 they returned to New York and filled important engagements with Madame Thurbert's famous opera company. With this company the pair appeared as Elsa and Lohengrin in New York, Boston, and Chicago—characters they never performed

in this country. Mr. Charles Turner at this time sang for three months with the Theodore Thomas orchestra, and, after a long residence in America and in England, both artists returned to Australia, arriving in March, 1890. After singing together throughout the Halle-Neruda concerts of that season they resumed their operatic and oratorio engagements, until the regretted death of Mr. Turner at Auckland in July last year. Australians will always retain a feeling of warm friendship for Mrs. Charles Turner; but her retirement from the Australian stage will bring with it the knowledge that she is returning to her Hawaiian home for rest and quiet, after an unusually arduous career.

Yesterday afternoon, about 3 o'clock, E. L. Spaulding and Henry Davis started Ewa way with their guns and dogs in search of plover. Their success was something phenomenal. Mr. Spaulding bagged to his own gun 120 birds, and Mr. Davis bagged sixty. About forty more were lost through the coming in of the tide.

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Capital their reinsurance companies, 101,650,000

Total reinsurance, 107,650,000

North German Fire Insurance Company OF HAMBURG.

Capital of the company and reserve, reinsurance, 8,830,000

Capital their reinsurance companies, 35,000,000

Total reinsurance, 43,830,000

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